STATEMENT OF BOB GUCCIONE

GRAND BALLROOM, NATIONAL PRESS CLUB

March 10, 1975

JUST OVER TWO YEARS AGO, GEORGE O'TOOLE CAME TO US WITH HIS IDEA FOR A SWEEPING INVESTIGATION INTO THE EVENTS SURROUNDING THE ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY. IT WAS HIS IDEA TO MAKE USE OF NEW SCIENTIFIC TECHNIQUES THAT HAD NOT BEEN AVAILABLE TO THE WARREN COMMISSION.

WE AGREED. LIKE THE MAJORITY OF AMERICANS---FROM THE LATE PRESIDENT LYNDON JOHNSON ON DOWN---I COULD NOT ACCEPT MANY OF THE KEY FINDINGS OF THE WARREN COMMISSION ABOUT THE MURDERS AT DALLAS.

AS THE MONTHS PASSED---AND GEORGE REPORTED THE RESULTS OF HIS FINDINGS TO US, I GREW PROGRESSIVELY MORE DISTURBED AS HIS NEW EVIDENCE UNFOLDED.

THIS WAS THE PERIOD IN WHICH THE WATERGATE COVER-UP WAS BREAKING WIDE OPEN. AND I COULD NOT HELP BUT COMPARE THOSE JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS WITH THE METHODOLOGY OF THE WARREN COMMISSION. TO ME, THE WATERGATE TRIALS UNDERSCORED THE VALUE OF OUR JUDICIAL PROCESS, THE IMPORTANCE OF THE CROSS-EXAMINATION OF WITNESSES, THE PRESENCE OF A CONCERNED TRIAL JUDGE, THE IMPORTANCE OF AN ADVERSARY PROCEEDING IN DEMOLISHING A COVER-UP.

BY CONTRAST, THE WARREN COMMISSION WAS NOT AN ADVERSARY PROCEEDING. NOT ALL THE WITNESSES WERE CALLED AND THOSE WHO WERE WERE NOT CROSS-EXAMINED BY SKILLED ATTORNEYS. THE ACCUSED WAS NOT EVEN PROTECTED FROM ASSASSINATION WHILE IN THE CUSTODY OF DALLAS POLICE. AND THIS, OF COURSE, MAKES PARTICULARLY VALUABLE GEORGE'S FINDINGS CONCERNING THAT POLICE FORCE.

(MORE)

IN A MOMENT, GEORGE WILL TELL YOU ABOUT HIS QUEST FOR THE FACTS AND WHAT HE LEARNED. BUT I CAN TELL YOU THAT HE WENT TO EXTRAORDINARY LENGTHS TO TRACK DOWN INDIVIDUALS WHO HAD GIVEN TESTIMONY TO THE WARREN COMMISSION. NOT ONLY WAS I IMPRESSED BY HIS DILIGENCE IN TACKLING THIS ASSIGNMENT BUT I WAS ALSO IMPRESS= ED BY HIS APPROACH---THE APPROACH OF AN INVESTIGATIVE REPORTER WHO WAS REPORTING THE FACTS TO US, NO MATTER WHAT HE FOUND.

GRADUALLY, THE PICTURE BEGAN TO TAKE SHAPE....GEORGE WAS NOT ONLY SHOWING US THAT LEE OSWALD WAS TELLING THE TRUTH AT DALLAS...HE WAS ALSO SHOWING US THE EXISTENCE OF A CONSPIRACY TO FRAME LEE OSWALD AND TO MURDER OUR PRESIDENT.

IT IS NOW UP TO THOSE OF YOU IN THE PRESS AND BROADCAST MEDIA TO EVALUATE HIS FINDINGS AND TO REPORT ON THEM TO THE PUBLIC. MY MAGAZINE HAS A NEWSSTAND SALE OF SOME FIVE MILLION COPIES. AND EVEN IF THIS BOOK SHOULD SELL VERY WELL, WE COULD NOT REACH THE MANY MILLIONS THAT THOSE OF YOU ASSEMBLED HERE CAN REACH---AND THAT IS WHY WE HAVE ASKED YOU TO BE PRESENT THIS MORNING.

IT IS TIME TO MAKE A NEW BEGINNING AT LEARNING THE TRUTH ABOUT THE CONSPIRACY THAT LED TO THE MURDER OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY AND THAT FRAMED LEE HARVEY OSWALD. I NOW GIVE YOU THE MAN WHO--- IN MY OPINION---HAS BEGUN THROUGH HIS INGENIOUS TECHNIQUES AND DEDICATION, TO UNRAVEL THAT CONSPIRACY AND TO BRING THE TRUTH HOME TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE....

GEORGE O'TOOLE.

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